

Masthead Logo

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Giving Blood after the Schoolyard Shootings

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GIVING BLOOD AFTER THE SCHOOLYARD SHOOTINGS

A transparent man
on the blood bank wall his body crowded
with the branching and sprouting of the circulatory system

what happens
inside the heart contracting its red
arterial blood swelling the ventricle the blue veins draining

the *vena cava*
emptying the limbs she swabs my arm
inserts a needle and hangs the plastic bladder out of sight

I squeeze and release
a child's red ball the blood jets
blackening the tube the clinic bustling like Intensive Care

red flecks
speckling the tile a red jewel
in the nurse's ear the sunset coloring the flooded pavement

this *letting*
these ruby pools in the parking lot
a woman in the next chair describing an article about dreams

she hadn't known
how the eye must keep moving even
asleep it roams its socket to keep the fluids moving it might

dry up otherwise
a dream is just something for it
to seem to see they're meaningless dreams it's just a theory.